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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: 1/4/57

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SUBJECT: Visit of King Saud to United States

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. James Terry Duce, Vice President, ARAMCO
Mr. Sam Kopper, ARAMCO
Mr. David Newsom, NE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Francis [Signature] DATE 10/14/82

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Mr. Duce telephoned from New York to report that he had just received a cable from ARAMCO in Dhahran reporting that an official invitation had been extended to King Saud to visit the United States, that the Ambassador had suggested the dates of January 23-25, that the King desired later dates that he might come by sea, and that Ambassador Wadsworth was awaiting word from the Department on the new dates.

Both Mr. Duce and Mr. Kopper expressed some disappointment that they had not been informed of these developments in greater detail by the Department. Mr. Duce emphasized the important role ARAMCO would have to play in the unofficial portion of the King's visit. Mr. Kopper said he believed the Department should take ARAMCO more into its confidence on these matters; he said he was certain ARAMCO had never leaked any information the Department had given it.

Mr. Newsom said in reply that he could confirm the information ARAMCO had received, but that he could add nothing to it since no decision had, as yet, been made in the White House on the change in dates. He emphasized that State visits were a matter primarily for the White House and that the Department was limited in what it could report until actual acceptances and dates were firm. He said that he believed the Department had kept ARAMCO informed of the fact that a visit was being considered, but that, as ARAMCO now knew, dates were not yet firm.

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Analyst suggested that Ambassador Wadsworth stay in Saudi Arabia, but that the Ambassador believed he should come with the King. The company, Mr. Duce said, Rev. strongly supported this view and believed the King would think it strange if the

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Ambassador

Ambassador did not come. Mr. Newsom said the Department would naturally follow the Ambassador's recommendation on this matter, but had originally believed that in view of the general situation in the area, it would be preferable for the Ambassador to remain in Jidda. Mr. Newsom said there was also some uncertainty about a possible transfer of Mr. Jenkins, the Counselor, and the Department wanted to be certain the Ambassador was in the country when the change of Counselors took place.

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